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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED TO 188 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF
FIREARM DURING ROADWAY SHOOTOUT**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Antoine Pettiford, age 33, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced today by United States District Court Chief Judge Benson E. Legg to 188 months in prison for illegally possessing a handgun in connection with a Fourth of July, 2002 shootout with another driver in Baltimore City. Judge Legg also ordered that this sentence will be consecutive to a 7 year sentence that Pettiford is currently serving on an unrelated state conviction.

According to the statement of facts contained in the guilty plea, shortly before noon on July 4, 2002, Pettiford was driving near the intersection of Harford Road and Erdman Avenue in Baltimore City. As a result of a dispute with another driver who was also armed, both Pettiford and the other driver fired their handguns at each other. The other driver sustained gunshot wounds for which he was hospitalized. Pettiford and the passengers in his car escaped unharmed. The gunfire also shot out the window of at least one other person's car, although no one else was wounded.

This case was investigated by the Baltimore City Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, and is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James G. Warwick and Michael J. Leotta.